Forest degradation by mining operations in Orissa

2827. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale degradation of forests by the mining operations in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the guidelines sent to the mine owners to stop any further degradation; and

(d) the steps taken to restore the ecology in the mining area by each mine owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) No non forest activity including mining can take place in Forest areas without diversion of Forest land. The Ministry of Environment and Forest (MOEF) grants permission for diversion of forest land for mining under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. MOEF has informed that no such repots regarding large scale degradation of forests by mining operation in Orissa have been received by the Central Government. However, monitoring of mining activities approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is the responsibility of the State Government.

Production by Coal India Ltd.

†2828. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism for the assessment of the quantum of coal being produced by the Coal India Ltd.;

(b) the quantum of coal produced by each company during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(c) the dates when the verification of the same was carried out; and

(d) the company-wise details of the shortage or surplus found in the said verification?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.